

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY LIMA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USINT ALGIERS
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FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 5663 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ROME 17 DEC

QUOTE

UNCLAS USUN 566

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR AORG UNGA DA FAO

SUBJ: 28TH GA: ITEM 105, WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

1. PLENARY APPROVED WITHOUT VOTE DECEMBER 17 REPORTS
OF SECOND AND FIFTH COMMITTEES ON ITEM 105, WFC.
AFTER ADOPTION, AMBASSADOR BENNETT DELIVERED STATEMENT,
AND ITALIAN AND ALGERIAN REPS MADE BRIEF INTERVENTIONS.

2. ALGERIAN REP SAID THAT ALL UN ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD
BE INVOLVED IN CONFERENCE WITH FAO AND UNCTAD HAVING
CARDINAL ROLE. HE FAVORED WIDEST POSSIBLE
PARTICIPATION IN WFC AND URGED THAT CONFERENCE
EMBRACE BROADER DEVELOPMENT ASPECTS OF QUESTION.

3. AMBASSADOR BENNETT REMARKS QUOTED BELOW:

QUOTE

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I WISH TO EXPRESS THE APPRECIATION OF MY GOVT
FOR THE COOPERATION OF ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED THEIR
TIME AND THEIR IDEAS TO THE CONSIDERATION OF THE WORLD FOOD
CONFERENCE. IT IS A CREDIT TO THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM THAT
IN THE SHORT TIME SINCE THIS MATTER WAS PROPOSED IN THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN LATE SEPTEMBER, IT HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND
APPROVED BY THE 17TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF FAO, THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, THE SECOND COMMITTEE, AND NOW THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY.

MY GOVERNMENT TAKES SATISFACTION IN EVENTS LEADING
TO PASSAGE BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RESOLUTION CALLING
FOR THE CONVENING OF A WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. SECRETARY
KISSINGER CALLED ATTENTION TO THE PRESSING NATURE OF THE

PROBLEM IN HIS SPEECH TO THE GA ON SEPT 24 WHEN HE SAID:

"THE GROWING THREAT TO THE WORLD'S FOOD SUPPLY DESERVES THE URGENT ATTENTION OF THIS ASSEMBLY. SINCE 1969, GLOBAL CONSUMPTION OF CEREALS HAS RISEN MORE RAPIDLY THAN PRODUCTION: STOCKS ARE AT THE LOWEST LEVELS IN YEARS. WE NOW FACE THE PROSPECT THAT -- EVEN WITH BUMPER CROPS -- THE WORLD MAY NOT REBUILD ITS SERIOUSLY DEPLETED RESERVES IN THIS DECADE."

MY GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT A WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE CAN SIGNIFICANTLY ASSIST THE WORLD COMMUNITY IN MEETING THIS CHALLENGE OF GLOBAL PROPORTIONS. THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE, AS WE AND MANY OTHER DELEGATES HERE HAVE NOTED, WOULD BE TO EXPLORE MEANS TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE FOOD SUPPLIES IN THE FACE OF RISING WORLD DEMAND, AND TO PREVENT HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION RESULTING FROM NATIONAL DISASTERS. THE CONFERENCE WILL OFFER AN OPPORTUNITY TO AGREE ON PRINCIPLES APPLICABLE ALL GOVTS IN THIS EFFORT.

THE UNITED STATES' PROPOSAL FOR A WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS JUST NOW BEGINNING.

WE BELIEVE THAT THEY ARE COMPLEMENTARY. QUESTIONS OF TRADE, AND OF THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR FOOD ARE HIGHLY INTERRELATED. ON THE ONE HAND WE HOPE TO SEE THE MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS REACHING AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS BY COUNTRIES TO DEAL WITH ALL THE FACTORS THAT UNDERLIE TRADE DISTORTIONS AND TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SPECIFICALLY. WE SEE THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, ON THE OTHER HAND, NOT AS A NEGOTIATING FORUM FOR AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES, BUT AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ARRIVING AT GENERALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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ACCEPTED PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES IN THE AGRICULTURAL FIELD WHICH CAN FACILITATE NEGOTIATIONS IN OTHER INT'L FORA.

TURNING TO PREPARATIONS FOR THE FOOD CONFERENCE, WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THERE IS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD BE PRECEDED BY A CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF FACTORS DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO THE FOOD SITUATION. IN OUR VIEW THIS REVIEW SHOULD INCLUDE ASSESSMENT OF THE DEMAND AND SUPPLY OUTLOOK, THE PROJECTED PACE OF TECHNOLOGICAL CHANGE, AND THE PROSPECTS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IMPROVING THEIR FOOD PRODUCTION, BOTH FOR THEIR OWN DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION AND FOR EXPORT. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS TYPE OF INFORMATION WILL PROVIDE AN ESSENTIAL BASIS FOR EFFECTIVE PLANNING BY THE INT'L COMMUNITY.

MR. CHAIRMAN, IT IS GENERALLY RECOGNIZED THAT INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS A FUNDAMENTAL REQUIREMENT IF WE ARE TO ASSURE LONG TERM WORLD FOOD SECURITY. INCREASING THIS FOOD PRODUCTION, AS MANY DELEGATES HAVE POINTED OUT, INVOLVES A VAST RANGE OF AGRICULTURAL, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES, ISSUES THAT OFTEN TRANSCEND THE STRICTLY AGRICULTURAL FIELD. A SINGLE CONFERENCE COULD NOT POSSIBLY REACH USEFUL DECISIONS ON ALL

THESE QUESTIONS,
AND IT MIGHT REACH NONE AT ALL, IF IT TRIED. ACCORDINGLY,
WE BELIEVE THAT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE MUST CONCENTRATE
ON A FEW KEY ISSUES, WHERE IMPROVED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
CAN REASONABLY BE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS
QUICKLY.

FOR EXAMPLE, ONE MEANS OF INCREASING FOOD AVAILABILITIES
WITHIN A RELATIVELY SHORT TIME IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
IS TO BETTER PREVENT THE LARGE CROP LOSSES WHICH REGULARLY
OCCUR AS A RESULT OF PESTS, PLANT DISEASES, AND INADEQUATE
STORAGE FACILITIES.

ANOTHER MEASURE, ON WHICH WORK IS ALREADY BEING DONE,
IS THE MAINTENANCE OF ADEQUATE STOCKS OF FOOD, TO ENABLE
THE WORLD TO COPE EFFECTIVELY WITH SHORTFALLS IN PRODUCTION,
AND SURGES IN DEMAND. THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE MAY WISH
TO BUILD UPON THE WORK OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
IN THIS FIELD BY DEVELOPING A SET OF PRINCIPLES THAT
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WOULD DEFINE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL COUNTRIES FOR
THE MAINTENANCE OF ADEQUATE STOCKS. IN THIS CONNECTION,
ATTENTION SHOULD ALSO BE PAID TO THE ROLE OF INDEPENDENTLY
HELD COMMERCIAL STOCKS AS AN IMPORTANT PART OF WORLD
FOOD RESERVES.

IN ADDITION TO FOOD RESERVES, THE UNITED STATES
BELIEVES THAT FOOD AID AND DISASTER RELIEF ARE AREAS THAT
WOULD BENEFIT FROM IMPROVED INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDNAT-
ION. GUIDELIENS FOR BOTH DONOR AND RECIPIENT NATIONS SHOULD
BE WORKED OUT THAT WILL ENSURE THAT FOOD AID IS USED
AS EFFECTIVELY AS POSSIBLE, BOTH TO MEET DISASTER
RELIEF NEEDS AND ALSO TO ENSOURAGE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY.

MR. CHAIRMAN, THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE
NATIONS OF THE WORLD HAVE IN THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AN
UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO REDEDICATE THEMSELVES TO THE GOAL
OF PROVIDING SUFFICIENT FOOD FOR ALL THE WORLDS PEOPLE, A GOAL WHICH
AS SECRETARY KISSINGER SAID ON SEPTEMBER 24, IS AN
ESSENTIAL ELEMENT, AND A PREREQUISITE, FOR THE SORT OF
WORLD COMMUNITY WE ARE ALL SEEKING, UNQTE.
BENNETT UNQUOTE RUSH

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BONN
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DUBLIN
LUXEMBOURG
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